AN INTRODUCTION TO NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR...

What is Netscape Navigator?

Navigator is a "catch all" internet utility. While first and foremost Navigator is a Web Browser it also includes an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) client, USENET news reader, and other internet utilities.

The World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (or simply "Web") consists of sites providing HTML (HyperText Markup Language) pages. HyperText means the pages contain links to other pages, and collectively these links form the "Web." HTML not only provides a method of linking pages together, but of also including text formatting, graphics, animations, and sounds in web pages.

> *What is a "link"?*
> A "link" is a connection to a net resource. Links can lead to other web pages, FTP sites, news groups, or other resources of information. Links can appear as text which is a different color (they're usually blue and underlined), as buttons, or as graphics.

FTP

FTP sites are depositories of files. FTP provides a directory structure, much like the one on your computer, to access these files. FTP interfaces are text based only, which means they're not as user friendly as web pages. However, it does provide much faster access to downloadable files.

USENET news

USENET is a global network of "bulletin boards." Messages posted to news groups (individual bulletin boards) are distributed to other sites which provide USENET access, and eventually can be posted world wide. The Goddard news groups, however, have limited distribution and are only readable by a few trusted sites.

> *How do I find information on the Web?*
> While there's a wealth of information on the Web, it's not always easy to get to. Web sites are located through the use of URLs (Universal Resource Locators) that begin with "http://". Once you have a URL you can store it and refer back to it later. The two best ways of finding URLs is to find a good starting point (a web page that contains a lot of links to information you're looking for) or perform a net search.

Searching the Web:

- On the Navigator Tool Bar is a button labeled **Net Search**; click on this.
- A web search engine (a program which compiles a list of web sites and looks for keywords in them) will appear with a field for entering text near the top of the page**. Type one, two, or three keywords** separated by spaces you think provide a good description of the information you're looking for.
- Next to the text field is a button labeled **Find** or **Search**; click on it to begin the search for your topic.
- After a few seconds the search engine will return a list if Web pages it thinks matches your description. If you find an appropriate link, click on it to begin exploring.

Retracing your steps:

- It's not uncommon to end up at a web page which doesn't provide you with the information you're looking for. <u>If you'd like to return to the previous page click on the **Back** button on the top left of the Tool Bar</u>. You may continue to use the Back button to return to previous pages all the way back to your home page (the page that appears when you first enter Netscape).

Storing the addresses of web pages:

- If you find a web page you want to refer to later you may want to add it to your Bookmarks list. While on the web page go to the **Bookmarks** menu and choose **Add Bookmark**. The next time you open the Bookmarks menu you will see the title of the web page added to the bottom of the bookmark list.
- To return to that page in the future go to the **Bookmarks** menu and **choose the title of the page from the bookmark list**.

Reading news:

- Netscape News is replacing the bulletin board system in cc:Mail. To enter Netscape News go to the **Window** Menu and choose **Netscape News**.
- A list of news groups you have subscribed to will appear in the window to the left. **Clicking on any news group title** will bring up a list of message in the window on the right.
- Messages in the news group are listed by date, and messages with the same topic may be grouped together. To read a message **click on the message title** and the contents will appear in the window below.

Subscribing to news groups:

- The list of news groups that originally appears in the list is far from complete. To subscribe to a news group (have it automatically appear in your list) go to the **Options** menu and choose **Show All News Groups**.
- You may be slightly overwhelmed by the number of newsgroups available. At any given time there are over 10,000 active news groups. All news groups, however, are arranged in categories which from left to right move from the most general to the most specific and are separated by periods. For example:
  - all Goddard news groups come under the category gsfc
  - all Hubble news groups come under the category gsfc.hst
  - inside these categories are specific categories relating to HST such as the calendar news group: gsfc.hst.calendar.
- After finding a news groups you'd like to subscribe to **click on the open box to the right of the news group's name**. A check in the box means you are subscribed to that news group.

Re-reading messages:

Once a message is read it will not appear the next time you enter the newsgroup. Also, newsgroups with no unread messages disappear from the newsgroup list as unread messages are counted. Through the use of the Options menu previously read messages can be redisplayed.

- **Options** menu items for viewing newsgroups:
  - **Show Subscribed Newsgroups**
    If a newsgroup does not appear in the selection list it's most likely because all messages in that newsgroup have been marked as read. "Show Subscribed Newsgroups" shows all subscribed newsgroups regardless of whether there are unread messages or not. Choose this option to make newsgroups which vanish (quickly appear then disappear) reappear.
  - **Show Active Newsgroups**
    This is the default setting. Only subscribed messages with unread messages in them will appear.
  - **Show All Newsgroups**
    Get ready for the flood if you choose this option. There are over 10,000 newsgroups available and this option will display them all. See above for instructions on using "Show All Newsgroups" to add newsgroups to the subscribed list.
  - **Show New Newsgroups**
    This lists any new newsgroups which have been added to the "All..." list since the last "All..." listing. Useful for subscribing to newsgroups which have been recently added to the server.

- **Option** menu items for viewing newsgroup messages:
  - **Show All Messages**
    This displays all read and unread messages. By default only unread messages are displayed; this option allows previously message to be reviewed.
  - **Show Only Unread Messages**
    This is the default setting. With this option only unread messages are displayed. Unread message are marked by green diamonds to the left of the subject.